



California Office of Traffic Safety
7000 Franklin Blvd., Suite 440
Sacramento, CA 95823



California Highway Patrol
2555 1st Avenue
Sacramento, CA 94298-0001

November 29, 2002

Dear Editor,

Last year in California, more than 176,000 arrests were made for impaired driving. A great many of those arrests ruined holiday celebrations for many families. For others, it meant that the holidays will never again be the same because a parent, child, friend or spouse never made it home.

California has always been tough on impaired driving. When we say 'zero tolerance' we mean it. And to prove that we mean it, the California Highway Patrol and dozens of law enforcement agencies throughout the state will be proactively looking for drunk drivers this holiday season.

That means that anyone found to have a blood alcohol content (BAC) of .08 or greater will be arrested. The same applies to anyone under 21 years of age with a BAC or .01 or more.

Those individuals who choose to drink and drive can look forward to investing a great deal of time and money, both of which have far greater uses. Additionally, those convicted of impaired driving can look forward to the following:

- Probation or jail time
- Having their car towed and impounded
- A hefty increase in auto insurance costs
- Spending time in DUI treatment programs and doing community service
- Having their drivers license restricted or suspended

The holidays are a time to enjoy and celebrate. Make the right choice for yourself, your family and friends. Don't drink and drive.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Teresa Becher".

Teresa Becher
Interim Director
California Office of Traffic Safety

Editor's Note: We encourage you to bring this important issue to your readers' attention during the holiday season. For more information on DUI programs in California, please contact Mike Marando, Office of Traffic Safety, at (916) 262-2975.

**Statistics from California Department of Motor Vehicles 2002 DUI-MIS Report.*